

International

Newsletter

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Message from the Mayor

Houston is a city with numerous strengths. This month, Houston's prominent standing in two areas, which significantly enhance our global economic growth --- energy and logistics --- have brought together business leaders and government officials from around the world for two important events: the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) and the 25th Annual World Ports Conference.



Bill White

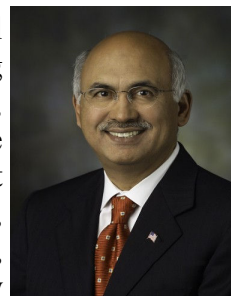
The OTC, the world's largest event for the development of offshore oil and gas resources, draws more than 50,000 participants from over 100 countries. Houston is also hosting the 2007 World Ports' Conference, organized by the International Association of Ports and Harbors, a global alliance of 230 ports, representing 90 countries.

The accumulated talent and expertise of participants in both events raises global awareness to the opportunities for partnership and trade.

Bill White, Mayor

Message from the Chairman, International Liaison and Protocol Committee (ILPC), City Council

As Chair of the International Liaison and Protocol Committee, I have the privilege of representing our great city both at home and abroad. Recently, I visited to Doha, Qatar, as a representative of the State Department's U.S. Speaker and Specialist Program. In meetings with local businessmen, dignitaries, academics, students, and politicians, we discussed various topics, from Houston City Council business, to the American political process, to Muslims living in the U.S.



M.J. Khan

One of the highlights of this experience was meeting with students from Qatar University, the Texas A&M University branch in Doha, and from the Bright Future School. I also met with Doha's Central Municipal Council, Pakistani Youth Society, and Qatar Businessmen's Association. My time in Doha enabled me to see first hand how the relationships Houston has been forging abroad could benefit our city for years to come.

M. J. Khan, Council Member

Highlights of Upcoming Events

World Ports Conference

April 27-May 4 – The Port of Houston Authority is hosting the International Association of Ports and Harbors for its 2007 World Ports Conference. Participants will discuss immediate and long-term issues in the area of waterborne transportation. For more information, please visit www.iaph2007.com.

Offshore Technology Conference

April 30-May 3 – More than 2,000 companies, representing 31 countries, are exhibiting state-of-the-art technology for offshore drilling, exploration, production, and environmental technologies with a focus on “Transforming the Industry.” For more information, please visit www.otcnet.org/2007.

Beyond Islamism

May 2 – The Houston World Affairs Council will present a lecture on the growth and impact of the new Islamic media, at the Junior League. Peter P. Mandaville, co-director of the Center for Global Studies at George Mason University, will be the keynote speaker. For more information, please visit www.hwac.net.

Int’l Connection - Australia

May 2 – The Greater Houston Partnership welcomes Western Australia's Minister for Energy, Resources, Industry and Enterprise, H.E. Francis Logan, who will discuss measures Western Australia has taken to encourage and support proactive new business development. For more information please e-mail nharper@houston.org.

Dr. Stephen Klineberg Luncheon

May 3 - Rice University's Dr. Stephen Klineberg will discuss the findings/results of his yearly “Houston Area Survey” with audiences at the Doubletree Hotel. The event will take place at noon; for more information, please email clam-bright@houston.org.

Science in Siberia

May 9-11 – The Academy of Science of the Russian Federation will host “Science in Siberia,” a conference to be attended by notable Russian academics. It will focus on the principles underlying the organization of science in Siberia. For more information, please email sophyat@gmail.com.

Houston Technology Center

May 10 – The Houston Technology Center will host its Annual Gala, at the River Oaks Country Club. This year's theme will be “A Celebration of Entrepreneurs,” and will honor Ernest H. Cockrell, President of the Cockrell Foundation. For more information, please e-mail habileah@houstontech.org.

Hispanic Women in Leadership

May 16 – The Honorable Anna Escobedo Cabral will be the keynote speaker at the “Inspiring Women to Dream” annual dinner, hosted by the Hispanic Women in Leadership organization, at the Federal Reserve Bank – Houston Branch. For more information, please call (713) 682-2192.

15th Anniversary APAHA Gala

May 18 - The Asian Pacific Americans Heritage Association will host its 15th Anniversary Gala at the Westin Oaks Hotel at 7:30 PM. This year's Gala will recognize the Honorable Norman Mineta, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation. For more information, please call (832) 553-7993.

Mayor's International Affairs and Development Council (MIADC)

This month we announce the new officials of six of the seven MIADC regions, which have held their elections: Africa, Americas, Asia-Australia, Europe, Middle East/ North Africa, South Asia

Africa

2006 Chair-elect, Mr. Chris Wilmot, transitioned to Chairman for 2007. The council elected Dr. Steve Ams as 2007 Chair-elect, and Mr. Gregory Ndlovu as 2007 Secretary.

Americas

2006 Chair-elect, Mr. Eberto Amador, transitioned to Chairman for 2007. The council elected Mr. Marco Bracamontes as 2007 Chair-elect, and Ms. Rosanna Moreno as 2007 Secretary.

Asia-Australia

2006 Chair-elect, Mr. Glen Gondo, transitioned to Chairman for 2007. The council elected Ms. Linda Toyota as 2007 Chair-elect, and Mr. Greg Foley as 2007 Secretary.

Europe

2006 Chair-elect, Mr. Paul Clemenceau, transitioned to Chairman for 2007. The council elected Mr. Andrew Pidgirsky as 2007 Chair-elect, and Mr. James Prappas as 2007 Secretary.

Middle East/ North Africa

2006 Chair-elect, Dr. Rami Shafiee, transitioned to Chairman for 2007. The council elected Mr. F.D. Baysal as 2007 Chair-elect, and Mr. Imad Abdullah as 2007 Secretary.

South Asia

2006 Chair-elect, Dr. Ahmad Durrani, transitioned to Chairman for 2007. The council elected Mr. Jagat Kamdar as 2007 Chair-elect, and Mr. Sajaad Burki as 2007 Secretary.

The Global Bridge: The Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce (NWCC)

Each month, the International Newsletter features "the Global Bridge" section, which introduces local business organizations dedicated to promoting Houston's international image.



Barbara Thomason

The NWCC was founded in 1974 by Chair Emeritus, Judge J. Kent Adams, and other community leaders. The Chamber's mission is to promote "successful businesses, [and a] thriving community," where, says NWCC President, Barbara Thomason, "we can be proud to do business and raise our families."

Area residents and business owners look to the Chamber as a "town hall," which provides them the opportunity to meet and explore the challenges facing their community. For 33 years, the Chamber has partnered with and promoted

local stakeholder organizations in the northwest service area such as Bush Intercontinental Airport, Barbara Bush Library, Northwest Assistance Ministries, Leadership North Houston, Centrum, and Sam Houston Race Park.

Successful Chamber initiatives include the "Buy Nearby" campaign, which encourages businesses and residents of the northwest service area to support the local economy by purchasing goods and services from local businesses; the new Community Development Project, which identifies and implements community improvements and beautification; and Business Shared Wealth And Talent (SWAT), a program unique to the Chamber, which provides a

support system for small businesses in the northwest region, whether or not they are Chamber members.

The Chamber is known for its support of the Bush Intercontinental Airport Festival, and the famous Epicurean Evening, which is held each summer at the Sam Houston Race Park, and spotlights a variety of restaurants and caterers in northwest Houston.

The NWCC serves over 750 members and has provided 33 years of leadership to northwest Harris County. For more information, please call the Chamber at (281) 440-4160, or visit our website, www.HoustonNWChamber.org.

— Sandy Barton, NWCC

www.houstontx.gov/moiad

The United Kingdom

This month, we visit a country known for its innovation-driven economy, world-renowned cities, picturesque countryside, captivating history and the global impact of its culture --- to converse with the Honorable Judith Slater, United Kingdom Consul General in Houston.



*Consul General
Judith Slater*

Established in Houston in 1939, the Consulate General of the U.K. prides itself on its strong ties to the local community. The relationship, says Consul General Slater, is rooted in “common values [such as] rule of law, sanctity of contract, belief of fair play and support for all; both the United Kingdom and Houston have very open societies.”

Year round, the Consulate supports numerous events involving Houston’s British-American community. In late April-early May, the Consulate will host several British delegations who are in town for the Offshore Technology Conference. “Houston has a future for oil and gas and all alternative energies, which the global economies require,” indicates Consul General Slater, who will continue to play an active role in that future.

—By Michelle Kneeland

One of the daily activities of the Consul General is to evaluate local trade and investment opportunities for U.K. companies in her jurisdiction area (Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico). Currently, there are 400 British energy companies with business activities in Houston, and 150 Houston-based companies have subsidiaries in the U.K. Aberdeen, Scotland, the ‘Oil Capital of the U.K.,’ is a sister city of Houston. Aberdeen, says Consul General Slater, “is to the United Kingdom what Houston is to the United States.”

In addition to promoting trade and investment opportunities for British companies, the Consulate General also functions as a policy research center. Consul General Slater points out with pride the Consulate’s efforts to raise awareness about greenhouse gas emissions in its jurisdiction area. The Consulate is currently conducting a comparison study of the Houston ship channel and the River Thames in London, and their respective impact on local climate change. Consul General Slater also leads her Consulate’s initiative to develop an in-residence ‘science and innovation’ team.

When asked what she loves about Houston, she quickly responded, “I love the ‘can-do’ atmosphere, pro-business openness and the friendliness of Houston.” Among Consul General Slater’s hobbies in Houston are visits to the symphony, opera and theater, practicing her golf, and attending Houston Astros baseball games.



United Kingdom of Great Britain and
North Ireland

Did You Know?

With access to the energy-rich North Sea, the United Kingdom has the second largest reserves of oil and gas found in Western Europe, after Norway.

Source: www.ciafactbook.com

Connections Across the Globe:

This month we track developments taking place within the Houston Airport System, the Port of Houston Authority & Sister Cities of Houston

Houston Airport System (HAS)

George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH), already a standard-bearer for international travel, has recently become the nation's first Model Port thanks to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency.

Following the attacks of September 11, 2001 and the increased security measures that were implemented subsequently, the number of visitors to the U.S. has dropped sharply. Houston Mayor Bill White formed a task force to evaluate the problem and

its impact on Houston's economy, and to suggest solutions to facilitate international travel at IAH. The task force had an important role creating the Model Port concept, which is a joint initiative between Homeland Security Secretary, Michael Chertoff, and Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice.

The program, designed to promote a better travel experience and ease the processing of passengers visiting the United States, includes improved

signage, an explanatory video in four languages and modernized security procedures. "Houston offers a great opportunity for the success of the Model Port program," said Rick Vacar, director of the HAS. "We are very pleased that IAH was selected to serve as [its] incubator." The inauguration of this program brings to fruition a yearlong effort to upgrade and improve services for the more than 7.4 million international travelers who fly through IAH annually.

— By Juan M. Alanis, HAS

Port of Houston Authority (PHA)

At its April 23 meeting, the Port Commission of PHA was presented with the results of a study on the economic impact of the Port on the local and regional economy, which highlighted the Port's significance.

According to the study, in 2006, the Port generated \$117.6 billion in economic activity in Texas (including \$8.1 billion in direct business revenue), and \$3.7

billion in state and local taxes. [See PHA's website for the full study].

At the same meeting, the Commission also approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Trustees for the Galveston Wharves regarding a joint action to create a master development plan for a Pelican Island Container Handling Facility, a first step to promote and

develop seaborne commerce in the upper Texas coast. The two ports anticipate robust market demand requiring development of such a facility in the next 10-15 years. Finance and development of the facility would not begin until after 2015, when the Port Authority's Bayport Container Terminal is expected to be completed.

— By Edwin Henry, PHA

Sister Cities of Houston (SCH)

On April 15, 2007, several talented local students were awarded medals by SCH at the Houston's Young Moviemakers ceremony, held at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. As a cosponsor of the event, SCH presented medals for the Coexistence Category to those whose work best exemplified tolerance, diversity, and living together in peace.

The award winners' films were

viewed, alongside with other entries, including the categories of Documentary and Animation.

Among the student films screened, were "My Dream" by Joseph Caplan of River Oaks Elementary School; "In Their Own Words" by ten students from Gregory-Lincoln Educational Center, a middle school; and "Living The Edge" by Ayesha Shah of the Guthrie Center, a high school. The Museum of Fine Arts Houston,

Women in Film & Television, and Houston MediaSource also co-sponsored the event.

The HYM competition is an annual event; make sure to have your budding Spielbergs start working on their masterpieces now.

—By Ellen I. Goldberg, SCH

Promoting Houston Globally:

This month we track developments taking place in the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau (GHCVB)

For many years, the GHCVB has been aggressively targeting Japanese tourism by participating in Texas sales missions, attending major trade shows, such as the Japanese Association of Travel Agents World Tourism Congress & Travel Fair, and by conducting sales calls with top tour operators and corporations that have subsidiaries in Houston.

In terms of travel from Japan, Houston is the second largest market in Texas, after Dallas. In order to expand that market, the GHCVB is focusing more on the corporate sector by offering leisure options before/after business trips. Thus, Houston can benefit not just from Continental Airlines' non-stop flight to Tokyo-Houston but also from the carrier's strategic alliance with Texas Tourism and Houston's representative office in Japan.

The positioning of Houston as a leisure destination for Japanese and Asian travelers differs from the strategy used for Latin America and Europe. Houston has been well known for many years as a diverse tourism destination that highlights NASA's Johnson Space Center in its promotional efforts. At the same time, the GHCVB promotes the cowboy and Texas Heritage experience at unique attractions like the George Ranch Historical Park as well as golf opportunities in Houston's more than 165 public and private golf courses.

The story of the Texan cowboy truly sells well in Japan and the GHCVB is capitalizing on that established image to promote the rest of Houston.

— By Daniel Palomo, GHCVB

Opportunities & Resources

Scholarships

- Hispanic Women in Leadership: 2007 Graduating Seniors
Contact: scholarships@hwil.org
- Consulate General of Japan in Houston: Monbukagakusho Scholarships
Contact: www.houston.us.emb-japan.go.jp

Trade Mission

- Tri-County Black Chamber of Commerce: June 2007 Mission to Belize
Contact: lrenathompson@aol.com

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**Bill White
Mayor**

**Helen T. Chang
Director, MOIAD**

**Matthew Shailer
Editor**

**Mary Jane Wakefield
Assistant Editor**

**Zachary Lee
Production Coordinator**

**Please send articles/
comments to
helen.chang@cityofhouston.net
Fax: (713) 437-6358**

**901 Bagby
City Hall, 4th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 247-3397**

**Next Submission Deadline:
May 20, 2007**

May 2007: National Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
5/1	6:00 PM	World Energy Cities Partnership: Networking Reception	Hilton Post Oak Hotel	fjaser@houston.org
	6:30 PM	International Association of Ports & Harbors: Western Wild Evening	Pasadena Convention Center	(713) 963-8373
5/2	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: International Connection—Australia	Greater Houston Partnership	nharper@houston.org
	Noon	Port of Houston Authority: 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Fentress Bracewell Barbours Cut Container Terminal	Barbour's Cut Cruise Terminal	(713) 529-5711
	6:00 PM	World Affairs Council of Houston: Beyond Islamism—The Growth & Impact of the New Islamic Media	The Junior League	www.hwac.net
	6:00 PM	U.S. Saudi Arabian Business Council: Offshore Technology Conference Reception	Westin Oaks Hotel Rooftop	otc07@us-sabc.org
	6:30 PM	International Association of Ports & Harbors: A Feast with the Beast Evening	Houston Zoo	(713) 963-8373
	7:30 PM	Big Dance Theater—The Other Here (through May 3)	Cynthia Woods Mitchell Building	(713) 743-2929
5/3	Noon	Greater Houston Partnership: Dr. Stephen Klineberg Luncheon—Public Perceptions in a City in Transition	Doubletree Hotel	clambright@houston.org
	6:30 PM	United Nations Association: U.S. & U.N. Relations—An Insider's Perspective	University of St. Thomas	unahouston@mac.com
5/4	8:00 AM	7th Annual Diversity Summit: Maximizing the Potential of a Diverse Work Force	Sugar Land Marriott Town Square	cecil.fong@shell.com
	6:30 PM	International Association of Ports & Harbors: A Fine Farewell Gala	Museum of Fine Arts Houston	(713) 963-8373
5/6	11:30 AM	Asian American Bar Association: Dim Sum with Judges	Fung's Kitchen Restaurant	ctha@delgadoacosta.com
	4:00 PM	United Nations Association International Choir: Songs from Asia: Embracing the Eastern World	Hobby Center	(281) 498-7562
	—	World Affairs Council of Houston: Silk Road Adventure: Uzbekistan (through May 17)	TBD	www.hwac.net
5/7	11:30 AM	Indo American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston: IACCGH Distinguished Lecture featuring Robert Beauchamp, President & CEO of BMC Software, Inc.	Westin Oaks Hotel	iaccgh01@aol.com
5/8	6:00 PM	World Affairs Council of Houston: Disease and Development in Africa—The Challenges and Successes	The Junior League	www.hwac.net
5/9	—	Academy of Science of the Russian Federation—Science in Siberia (through May 11)	TBD	sophyat@gmail.com
5/10	Noon	Houston International Protocol Alliance: Learn at Lunch—China	Visitors Center Theater, GHCVB	thardikar@ghcvb.org
	6:30 PM	Houston Technology Center: HTC Gala	River Oaks Country Club	habileah@houstontech.org
5/11	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: Quarterly Networking Luncheon	Hotel Derek	jgonzalez@houston.org
	11:45 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: Luncheon Featuring the Honorable Michael Bloomberg, Mayor, New York City	Four Seasons Hotel	jreese@houston.org

5/12	7:30 PM	Moroccan Society of Houston: Anniversary Gala 2007	Kasbah Imports	(832) 630-1022
	10:00 AM	ITEC Houston: 2007 Conference (through May 17)	Reliant Center	www.goitec.com
5/16	6:00 PM	Hispanic Women in Leadership: Annual Dinner—Inspiring Women To Dream	Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas—Houston Branch	(713) 682-2192
5/17	11:30 AM	Bilateral U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce & the World Affairs Council of Houston: U.S.-Mideast Relations—The Costs of a Damaged Dialogue	The Westin Oaks	www.hwac.net
5/18	7:30 PM	Asian/Pacific American Heritage Association: 15th Anniversary APAHA Gala	Westin Oaks Hotel	(832) 553-7993
	7:30 PM	Foundation of Modern Music, Rothko Chapel, The Jung Center, Asia Society of Texas Center, Asian American Chamber of Commerce, the Consulate General of India & Multicultural Education & Counseling through the Arts: Piano Concert featuring Adam Tendler	Rothko Chapel	(713) 524-9839
5/19	7:00 PM	Hobby Airport: Reception—80 Years of Flying High	Hobby Airport Central Concourse	TBA
5/21	—	Port of Rotterdam: Delegation Led by CEO of Port of Rotterdam (through May 22)	TBD	houston-desk@portofrotterdam.com
5/22	11:30 AM	World Affairs Council of Houston: Connected—24 Hours in the Global Economy	Hyatt Regency Hotel	www.hwac.net
	5:30 PM	Networking Reception for Hans Smit, CEO of the Port of Rotterdam	Intercontinental Hotel	houston-desk@portofrotterdam.com
5/23	8:00 AM	Houston Technology Center: HTC-University	Houston Technology Center	habileah@houstontech.org
	6:00 PM	World Affairs Council of Houston: North Korea & A Short History of Regime Change	The Junior League	www.hwac.net

We have one simple goal: to promote Houston as a renowned international city.

The contents are intended for general information purposes only.